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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Group: 1725  
Confirmation No.: 4154  
Application No.: 10/077,391  
Invention: CASTING STEEL STRIP  
Applicant: Nikolovski et al  
Filed: February 15, 2002  
Attorney  
Docket: 29385-69914  
Examiner: Tran Len

Certificate Under 37 CFR 1.8(a)

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

on October 14, 2004

(Signature)

Eric W. Beard

(Printed Name)

CONDITIONAL RESPONSE AND PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME

Mail Stop Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This conditional response is filed in response to the non-final Office Action of April 14, 2004. This response is conditional since the Examiner stated at the interview on May 21, 2004 that the "rejection is withdrawn." Specifically, the Interview Summary notes that "[a]pplicant's argument regarding to the random dimples is convinced and the non-final rejection is withdrawn."

Since the Examiner found at the interview on May 21, 2004 that the non-final rejection of the Office Action of April 14, 2004 "is withdrawn," a response to the Office Action of April 14, 2004 does not appear necessary or appropriate. Since a response is not necessary or appropriate, a fee for filing this response is not due. However, if a response is deemed necessary, it is respectfully requested that this paper be considered as a Petition for